

Message Text

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TAGS: OEXC VE

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN ESTABLISHING AN EXPANDED
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM FOR VENEZUELAN STUDENTS IN THE U.S.

REF: CARACAS 4683

1. IN THE PAST SEVERAL DAYS, WE HAVE BEEN APPROACHED BY A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT PEOPLE ASKING IF THE UNITED STATES COULD ASSIST VENEZUELA IN PLACING QUALIFIED UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR ADVANCED TRAINING. IN FACT, ON MAY 21, PRESIDENT PEREZ HIMSELF PUBLICLY PROCLAIMED A SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFIC DETAILS.

2. YESTERDAY, FORMER MINISTER OF FINANCE TINOCO TOLD OUR POLITICAL COUNSELOR THAT ONE OF THE MOST USEFUL THINGS THE U.S. COULD DO TO HELP THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT PEREZ WOULD BE TO OFFER TO COOPERATE WITH GOV IN HELPING TO PLACE YOUNG VENEZUELANS IN U.S. UNIVERSITIES AND TECHNICAL TRAINING INSTITUTES. ON THE PRECEDING DAY, DR. RAFAEL CASTILLO, VENEZUELA'S LEADING NEURO-SURGEON, OFFERED AN IDENTICAL SUGGESTION, ADDING THAT IT SEEMED TOO BAD THAT VARIOUS VENEZUELAN FOUNDATIONS WERE SENDING STUDENTS TO OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, AND UNIVERSITIES IN FRANCE BUT NOT TO THE UNITED STATES.

3. TODAY AT LUNCH, PLANNING MINISTER GUMERSINDO RODRIGUEZ REPEATED THE SAME THEME AND ASKED WHAT WE COULD DO TO HELP.

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APPARENTLY WHAT GOV IS SEEKING IS A MECHANISM FOR PLACING STUDENTS

RATHER THAN MONEY. I SHOULD THINK THAT THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION AND THE LATIN AMERICAN TEACHING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM
WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO HELP, AND BESPEAK THE DEPARTMENT'S
ASSISTANCE IN ENDEAVORING TO WORK OUT A PRACTICAL PROGRAM WHICH
I COULD THEN SUBMIT TO THE MINISTER OF PLANNING POSSIBLY TO THE
PRESIDENT HIMSELF.
MCCLINTOCK

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